

Howland Wood - Curatorial

American Association of Museums

Smithsonian Institution

[Washington, D.C.]

1923-1937

# The American Association of Museums

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141 East 29th Street, New York City

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Rhode Island School of Design, Providence.

March 1, 1923.

Mr. Howland Wood, Curator  
American Numismatic Society  
New York City

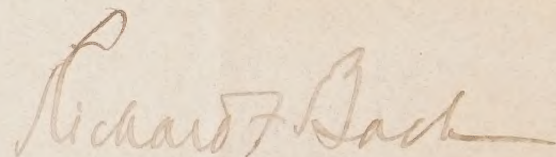
My dear Mr. Wood;

To help us clear up the season's arrears will you not kindly send along your Association dues for 1922-23? The amount is, as you know, \$ 3.00.

Of course since it is just as easy to write a 6 as a 3 in your check book, I should most appreciate the additional \$3.00 for your 1923-24 dues. Then I shall not need to trouble you with another small bill later on.

Your good will in the matter will be most helpful.

Cordially yours,



Assistant Treasurer



March 6th, 1923

Richard F. Bach, Esq.

American Association of Museums  
The Metropolitan Museum of Art  
New York City

Dear Mr. Bach:

I wish to apologize for overlooking my payment of membership dues last year, and am glad to forward Six Dollars (\$6.00) to cover payment for the years 1922 and 1923.

Sincerely yours,

Acting Secretary & Curator

HW/E

Enc. Cheque \$6.00

The American Association of Museums  
Smithsonian Institution  
Washington, D. C.

PRESIDENT: CHAUNCEY J. HAMLIN, President Buffalo  
Society of Natural Sciences.

VICE-PRES.: HENRY W. KENT, Secretary Metropolitan  
Museum of Art, N. Y. C.

TREASURER: WILLIAM P. WILSON, Director Philadel-  
phia Commercial Museum

ASST. TREAS.: RICHARD F. BACH, Metropolitan Museum  
of Art, N. Y. C.

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ARCHER M. HUNTINGTON, President  
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Peabody Museum, New Haven.

HAROLD L. MADISON, Curator  
Cleveland Museum of Natural History.

JOHN D. McILHENNY, President  
Pennsylvania Museum, Philadelphia.

HENRY FAIRFIELD OSBORN, President  
American Museum of Natural History,  
N. Y. C.

PAUL MARSHALL REA, Director  
Cleveland Museum of Natural History.

DOUGLAS STEWART, Director  
Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh.

FREDERIC ALLEN WHITING, Director  
Cleveland Museum of Art.

Office of the Secretary  
Washington, D. C.

June 18, 1923

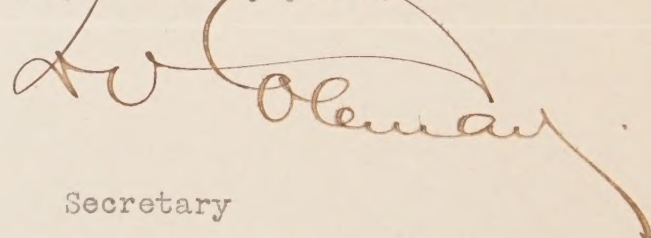
Mr. Howland Wood  
American Numismatic Society  
New York City

Dear Mr. Wood:

In future Museum Work will contain a department devoted to  
news, and in the May-June number we should like to have  
your museum represented. To this end will you not send me  
a memorandum of one or two current activities?

We go to press about June 30th.

Very sincerely yours,



Secretary



June 22nd, 1923

Mr. Laurence Vail Coleman  
The American Association of Museums  
Smithsonian Institution  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Coleman:

Referring to your favour of June 13th, our regular exhibit of coins, medals and decorations was closed at the beginning of March to make way for the exhibition of contemporary sculpture held by the National Sculpture Society, which opened on April 14th. The display is held in the Hispanic Society of America, the American Academy of Arts and Letters, and on the adjoining terraces; the plaque and medal exhibit being relegated to the American Numismatic Society. The exhibition is scheduled to close on August 1st.

After certain installations, a new exhibit of coins and medals will be placed on view here in the autumn.

Very truly yours,

Acting Secretary & Curator

HW/E



# THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF MUSEUMS

HEADQUARTERS AT THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

PRESIDENT: CHAUNCEY J. HAMLIN, President  
Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences

VICE-PRES. HENRY W. KENT, Secretary  
The Metropolitan Museum of Art.

TREASURER: FREDERIC A. DELANO, Regent  
Smithsonian Institution.

SECRETARY: LAURENCE VAIL COLEMAN  
Washington, D. C.

CHARLES R. RICHARDS, Director

Committee on Fire Hazards  
Chairman: EDWARD R. HARDY  
123 William Street, New York

January 22, 1924.

ERH: J

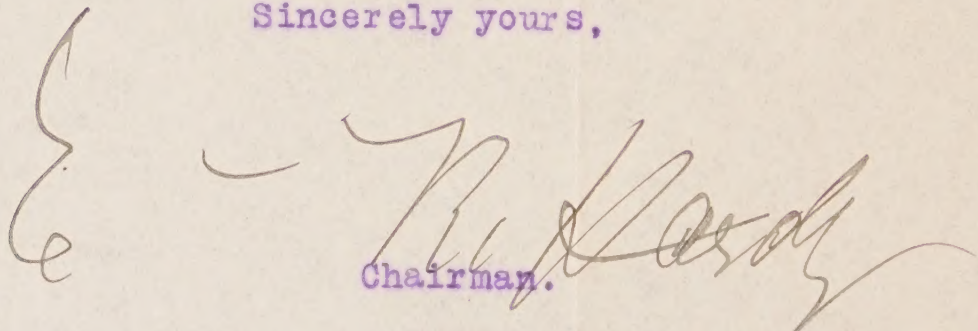
Howland Wood, Esq., Curator,  
American Numismatic Society,  
New York City.

Dear Mr. Wood:

I am commencing to take up the duties of the Fire Hazards Committee and the first step in connection therewith is to ascertain what attention, if any, is paid to the matter of fire hazards or fire prevention among the institutions that are members of the Association.

I, myself, as Chairman of the Committee will be very much obliged to you if we can have a statement as to the provision you make in regard to this matter. This will give us the foundation on which to build.

Sincerely yours,

  
Chairman.



*Am. Museum*

January 26th, 1924

Edward R. Hardy, Esq.  
123 William Street  
New York City

Dear Mr. Hardy:

In reply to your letter of January 22nd, would say that we have concerned ourselves very little with fire hazards. Our building is of re-enforced concrete, with steel doors and trimmings, with no wood at all in its construction. We adjoin a building equally fire-proof. On the other side is a vacant lot and then a building, as we understand, as substantial as our own. In front of us are several hundred feet of open space; and back of us a street and a whole block given over to a cemetery. Our inside equipment is largely steel, and what little inflammable material we may have is not connected with wooden objects. We think that with us, both inside and outside, fire is reduced to a minimum.

Very truly yours,

Curator

HW/E



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Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences

TREASURER: FREDERIC A. DELANO, Regent  
Smithsonian Institution.

VICE-PRES. HENRY W. KENT, Secretary  
The Metropolitan Museum of Art.

SECRETARY: LAURENCE VAIL COLEMAN  
Washington, D. C.

CHARLES R. RICHARDS, Director

Committee on Fire Hazards  
Chairman: EDWARD R. HARDY  
123 William Street, New York

January 28, 1924.

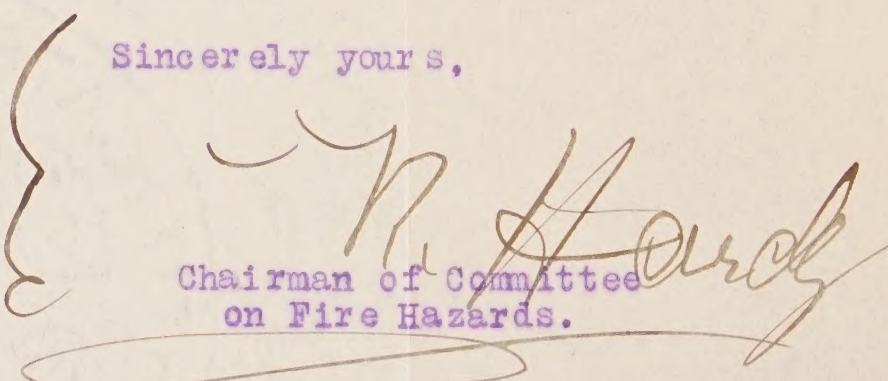
ERH:J

Mr. Howland Wood, Curator,  
The American Numismatic Society,  
Broadway, between 155 & 156th Sts.,  
New York City.

Dear Mr. Wood:

I am referring to your letter of the 26th instant in regard to fire prevention and venture to state that you are exceedingly fortunate in that your building was erected so recently that you were enabled to avail yourselves of the full benefits of modern fireproof construction. I venture to ask, if it be not troubling you too much, whether or not you do have any fire extinguishers or any appliances at all and do you have watchman service.

Sincerely yours,

  
Chairman of Committee  
on Fire Hazards.

P. S. Can you let me know if you have ever had any fire in your museum and any information about them that is available.



January 29th, 1924

Edward R. Hardy, Esq.

The Amer. Association of Museums

123 William Street, New York City

Dear Mr. Hardy:

Replying to your letter of January 28th,  
our building is equipped with the Badger Fire Ex-  
tinguisher. There are several of these scattered  
in various parts of the building.

We also have a night watchman.

So far we have had no fire in our Museum.

Very truly yours,

Curator

HW/E



## COOPERATIVE MEMBERSHIP PLANNED

Repeatedly the suggestion has been made that members of the museum profession ought to agree to extend to each other the hospitality of their respective institutions. Of course this is done whenever the visitor is recognized, but a letter from a museum director shows another side of the case.

He writes: "As you know, many museums charge an admission fee on one or more days a week. In Chicago last summer I had to pay 25c to get into each of two museums in a single day, although I am myself in the museum business. This is a trivial matter but it is annoying. Has it ever occurred to you to try to promote a reciprocal arrangement by which a membership ticket in one museum might admit to every other museum in the country—or perhaps the privilege might be extended only to those who are members of the Association.

"The back of my Y. M. C. A. membership ticket states that 'This Ticket will also be honored, and the holder cordially welcomed, by any Young Men's Christian Association in the United States or Canada.'"

Since the membership of the Asso-



# THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF MUSEUMS

HEADQUARTERS AT THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

CHAUNCEY J. HAMLIN, President: PRESIDENT  
Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences

VICE-PRES: HENRY W. KENT, Secretary  
The Metropolitan Museum of Art.

FREDERIC A. DELANO, Regent: TREASURER  
Smithsonian Institution.

SECRETARY: LAURENCE VAIL COLEMAN  
Association Headquarters

CHARLES R. RICHARDS, Director

ARCHER M. HUNTINGTON, President  
The Hispanic Society of America.

## COUNCILORS

RICHARD SWANN LULL, Director  
Peabody Museum of Natural History.

JOHN D. McILHENNY, President  
The Pennsylvania Museum.

PAUL MARSHALL REA, Director  
The Cleveland Museum of Natural History.

HAROLD L. MADISON, Curator  
The Cleveland Museum of Natural History.

HENRY FAIRFIELD OSBORN, President  
The American Museum of Natural History.

DOUGLAS STEWART, Director  
Carnegie Museum.

FREDERIC ALLEN WHITING, Director  
The Cleveland Museum of Art.

March 10th, 1924.

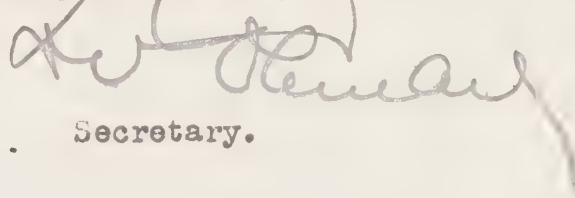
Howland Wood, Curator,  
American Munismatic Society,  
Broadway & 156th St.,  
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Wood:

You may have noticed the item published recently in The Museum News concerning a blanket membership in all museums, for members of our Association. I enclose a copy of this item and beg to inquire whether your museum will kindly extend to our members the hospitality which it offers to its own.

We hope that this arrangement may be made with museums throughout the country for with few exceptions our members are museum workers to whom every courtesy would be extended if their visits were anticipated.

Very sincerely yours,



Secretary.

Encl.  
LVC:MRB.



March 18th, 1924

Laurence Vail Coleman, Esq.  
The Amer. Association of Museums  
Smithsonian Institution  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Coleman:

In reply to your favour with regard to blanket membership in all Museums, as far as we are concerned, we charge no admission fee and anyone can enter during exhibition hours and at other proper times by ringing the bell. Everyone who is interested in our Museum and in our work can come in between the hours of nine and five O'clock.

Very truly yours,

Curator

# THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF MUSEUMS

HEADQUARTERS AT THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

WASHINGTON, D. C.

PRESIDENT: CHAUNCEY J. HAMLIN, President  
Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences

VICE-PRES: HENRY W. KENT, Secretary  
The Metropolitan Museum of Art

TREASURER: FREDERIC A. DELANO, Regent  
Smithsonian Institution

SECRETARY: LAURENCE VAIL COLEMAN  
Washington, D.C.

CHARLES R. RICHARDS, Director

Committee on Fire Hazards  
Chairman: EDWARD R. HARDY  
123 William Street, New York

April 28, 1924.

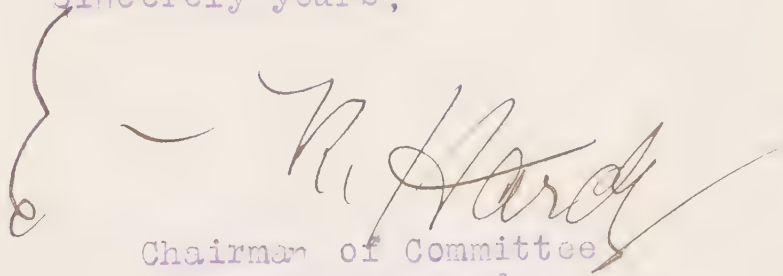
Mr. H. Wood, Curator,  
The American Numismatic Society,  
Broadway, between 155th 156th Sts.,  
New York City.

Dear Mr. Wood:

I am enclosing herewith a small booklet dealing with first aid devices for fire fighting purposes. It occurs to me that you may find it useful.

It was my good fortune to serve as chairman of the committee which brought this work to a completion and it represents the best thought on the use of these devices after a study lasting over three years.

Sincerely yours,

  
Chairman of Committee  
on Fire Hazards.

Encl.



January 22nd, 1925

Laurence Vail Coleman, Esq.  
The Amer. Association of Museums  
2 West 46th Street, New York

Dear Mr. Coleman:

In compliance with your request regarding placing an Exhibition of modern medals in other Museums, I am sending you the enclosed. If the matter is taken up with us by other organizations, we can then go further into detail.

Very truly yours,

Curator

Enc.

THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION  
OF MUSEUMS

DIRECTOR:  
CHARLES R. RICHARDS  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY  
LAURENCE VAIL COLEMAN

2 WEST 46TH STREET  
NEW YORK CITY

April 14, 1926

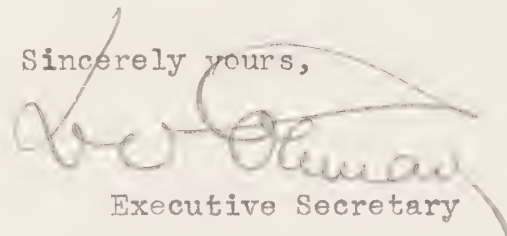
Mr. Howland Wood  
American Numismatic Society  
Broadway at 155th Street  
New York

Dear Mr. Wood:

Our Association will hold its Twenty-first Annual Meeting here in New York May 17 to 19 and I know that many of our members will want to visit your Society. Unfortunately it will not be possible for us to come in a body because the meeting is to be a short one and we are going to have about all we can do to hold one session each at The American Museum of Natural History, The Metropolitan Museum of Art and The Brooklyn Museum.

I am writing only because one is sometimes glad to be forewarned of visitors, and doubtless you will have quite a number drop in upon you.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Laurence Vail Coleman", written over a horizontal line.

Executive Secretary



April 15th, 1926

L. V. Coleman, Esq.  
Amer. Association of Museums  
2 West 46th Street, New York

Dear Mr. Coleman:

Many thanks for your tip about the Museum Convention. I, personally, will be at all of the meetings and will be prepared to receive anyone who cares to come up to our Society. We generally catch a few going or coming from Conventions; and the last time one was held in New York, we had quite a number here at odd moments.

Very truly yours,

Curator

THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF MUSEUMS  
HEADQUARTERS AT THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

February 21, 1928

Mr. Howland Wood,  
American Numismatic Society,  
New York City

My dear Mr. Wood:

Some months ago the International Office of Museums was established under the League of Nations and its headquarters are here in this city. The official publication of the Office is the quarterly "Museum," and for this publication we have undertaken to write the interests of a number of American institutions. In this letter.

I would be willing to keep you advised of the most important new American publications on numismatics so that every three months you could rather than a year later and send me a list of the publications in which you are interested. For correspondents for other subjects, no long reviews are desired - simply a reference to title and author and a sentence or two to indicate the value and importance of the work. This undertaking need be no more burdensome than you know it, since the people in Paris are eager to grasp at whatever they can get.

Sincerely yours,

L. V. COLEMAN

Director

LVC:b



THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF MUSEUMS  
HEADQUARTERS AT THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

DIRECTOR  
LAURENCE VAIL COLEMAN

March 23, 1928

Mr. Howland Wood,  
American Numismatic Society,  
New York City

My dear Mr. Wood:

I wonder whether you got my letter of  
February 21 concerning the cooperation which we hoped  
you would give to the new International Office of  
Museums. I am enclosing a copy, believing that the  
other may have gone astray. If you will think  
favorably of this I shall be much obliged.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'L. V. Coleman', with a large, sweeping flourish over the last name.

Director

LVC:b  
encl.

3d April, 1928

Mr. L. V. Coleman, Director,  
The American Association of Museums,  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

Please pardon me for not seeing that your original letter of February 21st was answered. I turned it over to Mr. Noe, our librarian, and thought that he had replied. We talked this matter over, and both felt that neither of us could give the time - even though it would not be much - to send in a list of numismatic publications to 'Museum'. We are so short-handed here that we really both have more than we can attend to.

Very truly yours,

Curator



THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF MUSEUMS

HEADQUARTERS AT THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

DIRECTOR  
LAURENCE VAIL COLEMAN

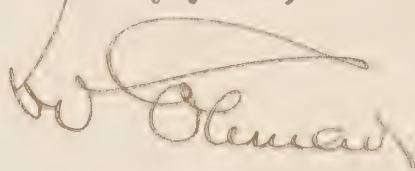
October 22, 1929

Dr. Howland Wood, Curator,  
American Numismatic Society,  
Broadway & 156th St.,  
New York City

Dear Dr. Wood:

We are called upon occasionally to recommend  
a good book on coins and medals, <sup>and</sup> ~~we~~ should appreciate  
information as to what book or books you would suggest.

Sincerely yours,



Director

LVC:b

Let coins tell their medal  
in US mint. How to tell  
coins & how to know them  
L. Stokes NY 1908

The Coinage of the European Continent  
W. C. Wood 1893

Nov. 2, 1929

The American Assoc. of Museums  
Smithsonian Institution  
Washington, D.C.

Atten. L.V. Colman, Director

Dear Sir:

Pardon the delay in answering your inquiry of October 22nd. There is no really good book on coins and medals that would answer all purposes. I am herewith suggesting the following as coming nearer to filling the bill:

Catalogue of Coins, Tokens and Medals in U.S. Mint,  
Government Printing Office.

Coins & How to Know Them - Gertrude B. Rawlings,  
F. A. Stokes, New York, 1908.

The Coinage of the European Continent -  
W.C. Hazlitt, 1893.

The latter is out of print but it often comes up at auction sales and second-hand bookshops.

Very truly yours,

Curator.



THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF MUSEUMS

HEADQUARTERS AT THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

January 22, 1931

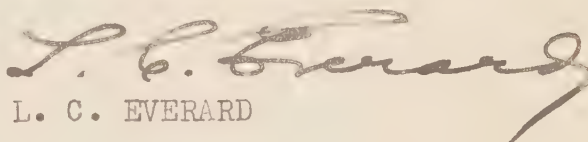
EDITOR  
L. C. EVERARD

American Numismatic Society,  
Broadway at 155th St.,  
New York City.

Gentlemen:

The enclosed letter is referred to you for any action  
you may desire to take. It has been acknowledged.

Yours very truly,

  
L. C. EVERARD

LCE:c

*Acknowledged  
Jan 24/31*

November 16, 1931.

The American Association of Museums  
Headquarters at the Smithsonian Institution  
Washington, D. C.

Gentlemen:

We are returning your list giving the  
names and titles of the officers and staff members  
of our Society. This is correct with the ex-  
ception of the name of Miss Dorothy M. Cox.

Very truly yours,

HW:JG

Curator



June 24, 1932.

The American Association of Museums  
Smithsonian Institution  
Washington, D. C.

Gentlemen:

I am herewith enclosing my check  
for individual membership dues for 1932 and  
1933. I herewith hand in my resignation  
to take effect at the termination of this  
period.

Very truly yours,

IIW:JG

November 27, 1933.

The American Association of Museums  
Washington, D. C.

Gentlemen:

We are in receipt of an inquiry concerning the Palmetto Numismatic Museum, Health Springs, South Carolina, Louis E. Jaeckel, Secretary. We have never heard of this organization and would like to know something concerning them.

Very truly yours,

HW:JG

Curator



THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF MUSEUMS

HEADQUARTERS AT THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

EDITOR  
L. C. EVERARD

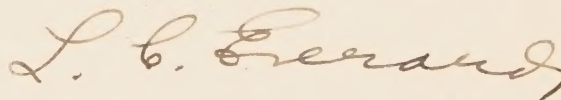
December 1, 1933.

Mr. Howland Wood,  
The American Numismatic Society,  
Broadway between 155th and 156th Streets,  
New York City, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Wood:

We do not have any record of the Palmetto  
Numismatic Museum in our files. If any information about this  
organization should come to us in the near future, I shall  
communicate with you again.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "L. C. Everard".

Editor

December 4, 1933.

American Association of Museums  
Smithsonian Institution  
Washington, D. C.

Attention: L. C. Everard

Dear Mr. Everard:

I beg to thank you for your letter in regard to the Palmetto Numismatic Museum. They have apparently written various foreign countries for their various Orders of Knighthood and War Decorations. We have had one or two foreign consuls call us up. If I hear anything further about them I will communicate with you.

Very truly yours,

HW:JG

Curator



THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF MUSEUMS  
HEADQUARTERS AT THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

DIRECTOR  
LAURENCE VAIL COLEMAN

March 24, 1937

Mr. Howland Wood  
American Mumismatic Society  
New York, New York

Dear Mr. Wood:

You used to be with us as a member and  
I need not tell you about our Association, but  
you may be interested in the enclosed leaflet.

This is to extend a cordial invitation  
to join with us again.

Sincerely yours,

*L. V. Coleman*  
W.F.

Director